

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #44

February 2012

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

| Gr. | GW | | SE | | VN | | MMS | | Total |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-------|
| | | +/-* | | +/-* | | +/-* | | +/-* | |
| PK | 30 | 4/4 | 29 | 0/2 | 30 | 4/3 | | | 89 |
| K | 40 | 3/5 | 46 | 4/2 | 48 | 6/3 | | | 134 |
| 1 | 39 | 9/3 | 50 | 2/3 | 50 | 7/2 | | | 139 |
| 2 | 32 | 2/0 | 40 | 2/1 | 56 | 5/3 | | | 128 |
| 3 | 43 | 4/1 | 45 | 4/2 | 41 | 4/1 | | | 129 |
| 4 | 40 | 7/3 | 46 | 2/1 | 51 | 2/1 | | | 137 |
| PK-4 | | | | | | | | | 756 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 146 | 19/1 | 146 |
| 6 | | | | | | | 142 | 10/3 | 142 |
| 7 | | | | | | | 145 | 12/4 | 145 |
| 8 | | | | | | | 148 | 6/0 | 148 |
| # Boys | 130 | | 140 | | 142 | | 286 | | |
| # Girls | 94 | | 116 | | 134 | | 295 | | |
| Total | 224 | 29/16 | 256 | 14/11 | 276 | 28/13 | 581 | 47/8 | 1337 |

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 4 families with 10 students.

| | GW | SE | VN | MMS | District |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|----------|
| Immigrant children* | 7 | 16 | 4 | 9 | 36 |
| ELL ** | 11 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 44 |

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2011

| Grade | Math | Writing | Reading | Science |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 3 – 130 | 102/84.6 | 94/72.7 | 94/72.7 | ----- |
| 4 – 131 | 105/80.2 | 99/75.6 | 99/75.6 | ----- |
| 5 – 141 | 125/88.7 | 111/78.7 | 111/78.7 | 120/85.2 |
| 6 – 140 | 110/78.6 | 105/75.0 | 105/75 | ----- |
| 7 – 142 | 109/76.8 | 107/75.5 | 107/75.5 | ----- |
| 8 – 145 | 116/80.0 | 121/83.7 | 121/83.7 | 129/89.0 |

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2011-2012 grade)

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Gr. 4 – 49/37.7% | Gr. 7 – 53/37.5% |
| Gr. 5 – 48/36.6% | Gr. 8 – 51/35.7% |
| Gr. 6 – 45/31.6% | Gr. 9 – 41/28.0% |

- Results reviewed by district and building administration along with appropriate teaching and support staff.
- Reviewed preliminary NCLB reports indicated that MMS and the district have not reached Adequate Yearly Progress in Reading and Mathematics for Students with Disabilities and in Reading for Economically Disadvantaged.

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

| Sept. – Feb. 2011 | | Sept. – Feb. 2012 | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Paid Meals | Total Meals | Paid Meals | Total Meals |
| 47,727 | 86,769 | 56,540 | 94,990 |

- Pilot of MMS Salad Bar began January 30, 2012 to run for two months.
- Informed Town Manager of MBOE 2012-2103 Adopted Budget of \$20,588,160 (0%).

Personnel

| | Certified | Non-Certified |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Retirements | 0 | 1 |
| Resignations | 0 | 0 |
| Requests for Leave | 1 | 0 |
| New Hires | 0 | 0 |
| Reduction in Force | 0 | 0 |

- Implemented a plan to address a leave by Director of Food Services.
- Implemented AlertNow notification for all staff announcing delayed openings or school closures.
- Facilitated initial meeting of MMS Principal Search Committee.
- Facilitated posting of certified staff positions for 2012-2013.
- Attended Quarterly Employee Benefits meeting.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year four implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Conducted one Administrative Council meeting.
- Facilitated District Technology Committee meeting.
- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Initiated discussions regarding Common Core State Standards at grade level meetings.
- Facilitated Math Grant meeting with UCONN and Math Consultant.
- Implemented Digital Art displays at all schools and other public buildings.
- Attended Mathematics Textbook presentations for gr. 6-8 pilots.
- Facilitated TEAM Committee Meeting.
- Facilitated District Technology Committee Meeting.
- Facilitated scheduling and distribution of Connecticut Mastery Testing.

Policies

- Implemented revised MBOE Policies approved at the October 13, 2011 meeting.
- Continued to explore the possibility of MBOE/Region 19 Policies revised concurrently.
- Facilitated posting on district website 2011-2012 MBOE Policy Manual.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.
- Facilitated revisions to the Mansfield Public Schools Custodial and Maintenance Procedures and Policies Manual.
- Restored water at Vinton School.
- Water tests at all four schools showed no issues.
- Radon tests at all four schools showed no issues.
- Facilitated a Safe Routes to School grant application.
- Monitored repair and maintenance of school roofs.
- Provided information regarding water issues to MBOE.
- Reported to police vehicle damage/property theft at three schools.

| Maintenance Work Requests | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | GW | SE | VN | MMS | Total | |
| Solved | 164 | 187 | 205 | 354 | 910 | 89% |
| Pending | 5 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 21 | 2% |
| Open | 35 | 11 | 19 | 29 | 94 | 9% |
| Total | 204 | 206 | 227 | 388 | 1025 | 100% |

Programs

Study Island Through February 25, 2012

| Grade 3 | | | | Grade 4 | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Math | | Reading | | Math | | Reading | |
| Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct | Q* | % Correct |
| 31,461 | 82.1 | 17,178 | 68.1 | 28,524 | 85.4 | 21,318 | 73.9 |

*Number of questions attempted on grade level

MMS Open Library/Media Center Night

| | 11/2/11 | 11/9/11 | 11/16/11 | 11/30/11 | 12/7/11 | 12/14/11 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Students | 6 | 12 | 22 | 9 | 7 | 11 |
| Parents | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 10 | 17 | 27 | 12 | 9 | 17 |

| | 1/4/12 | 1/18/12 | 1/25/12 | 2/1/12 | 2/8/12 | 2/15/12 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Students | 18 | 21 | 23 | 15 | 21 | 21 |
| Parents | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Total | 26 | 25 | 28 | 21 | 29 | 27 |

Energy

- Facilitated school building energy committees.
- Continued to facilitate guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.
- Discussed with finance and maintenance department common comprehensive energy management system.
- Implemented CCM Program: Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) under PA 11-80.
- Facilitated Conn Serv energy audit of Southeast School.
- Facilitated SOAR internships from 3 Rivers Comm. College with the enrichment teachers for a school greenhouse design at MMS and a school garden design at Vinton.

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Continued the implementation of Tabletop Emergency Procedures Drill preparation.

Communication

- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Attended Hockanum and URSA Superintendents' meetings.
- Attended MAC meeting.
- Continued to implement A/C-E to enhance communication between meetings.
- Met with Town Manager and Registrars of Voters regarding voting at Vinton School.
- Attended two Town Council meetings regarding school building project.

Professional Development

- Implemented district committee to review district SRBI procedures.
- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Initiated discussions regarding Common Core State Standards at grade level meetings.
- Implemented Administrator's Professional Development Series on Teacher Evaluation.
- Facilitated Writing Prompt Scoring and/or LA/Reading Professional Development for K-4 teachers.
- Facilitated Writing Prompt Scoring for specific gr. 5-8 teachers.
- Facilitated district Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Facilitated district UCONN Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended TEAM Module 5 Facilitator Orientation.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Implemented Pearson Limelight Inform to track student assessment data to inform instruction.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.
- Implemented the posting on district website of a four schools district calendar.
- Developed & implemented plan for district assessments and CMT data to be entered in Pearson database.
- Continued review of revised district and school website.
- Facilitated purchase and use of digital display of student artwork.
- Initiated AlertNow for school delays/closings to parents/guardians.

Other

- Attended Using Data to Drive Classroom Instruction workshop.
- Attended S&G: Practical Tips Re: Prep for Teacher Non-Renewal Hearings.
- Attended ESEA Waiver Information Session.
- Attended UCONN Schools as Clinics meeting.
- Participated in webinar: Gov. Malloy Outlines Principles for Education Reform.
- Attended CAPSS: Curriculum Alignment and CCSS.
- Attended CT Achievement Gap: How Housing Policy Can Help Close It.
- Attended CAPSS Transformation Project meeting.
- Attended What Will Our Children Lose? Press conference.
- Attended CAPSS Legislative Committee meeting.
- Attended CAPSS Assessment & Accountability Meeting.
- Discussed preliminary findings of transportation review.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- A first ever kindergarten pot luck dinner was a huge success at Goodwin this month. Nearly 100 people attended this event. Families brought a favorite dish and parents had a chance to meet and mingle with others from their children's classes. It was the first time the future class of 2024 has been together for a social event and parents, students and teachers all enjoyed the experience! Thanks to Mary Lee Geary, Kelly Haggerty, and Sally Clark for helping to organize the event.
- On Friday, February 17, Goodwin celebrated Tropical Reading Day. We pushed away the winter blahs by dressing in our best Caribbean outfits and sharing a whole school reading event in the gymnasium. Students spread out their towels and blankets, listened to beach music, donned their sun glasses and read their favorite books. Lunch was served picnic style. The highlight of the meal was the arrival of the Tropical Smoothies made by Becky Doggett and Anne Dumont. After lunch, a conga line led by Mrs. Sroka, Mr. Weyel, and Mrs. Cantara snaked the 220 students through the halls and under the limbo stick. The rest of the day included a K-4 recess, bear buddies, and in-class reading events.

Southeast School

- Mansfield's local chapter of the National Grange presented third graders at Southeast with its yearly donation of dictionaries. As part of The Dictionary Project, the Grange has once again donated dictionaries through its *Word for Thirds* program. The goal of the program is to help third graders complete the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with their own personal dictionaries. The gift of a dictionary provides each student the opportunity to use it at school and home for years to come. James Hendricks, third grade teacher, shared that his students learn how to use the dictionary through the language arts program and then use it independently throughout the school year. He stated that "With every student receiving the same dictionary, it makes it easy to teach dictionary skills." After receiving the gift of a dictionary, one student said, "I love the smell of the new dictionary. It is great!" Another student said, "I can search for new words to learn every day; this is awesome!" The National Grange, America's oldest rural and agriculture organization, has presented more than 1.8 million children with dictionaries.
- A thank you letter from Tracy Babbidge, Interim Chief for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, was sent to each of the twelve Battle of the Books students. As part of this afterschool program, third and fourth graders sent personal letters to Commissioner Esty regarding ways they can save the green sea turtle by lowering coal powered energy plants. The thank you letter states that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection continues to help residents of Connecticut lower carbon emissions and address climate change. It was further stated that Commissioner Esty is working on the following initiatives: 1) Lowering emissions and creating jobs in the state by developing renewable energy like solar power. 2) Increasing energy efficiency – reducing energy at home, in businesses and schools saves money, energy and helps the environment. 3) Drive less – biking, walking, taking the bus eliminate car trips and reduce air pollution. Our students were very excited to receive a personal letter from Interim Chief Tracy Babbidge.

Vinton School

- "Doctor-I can't get to bed at night." "Don't worry-just lie on the edge of the bed and soon you'll drop off." Fortunately the Vinton students did not have to resort to that prescription. According to our Vinton "Sleepy Time Survey", most students responded that to help them fall asleep they would listen to music or read. (Vinton homepage 95210) If you came to our Vinton February assembly you would have seen a panorama of pajamas in honor of "aim for 9 hours of sleep". In addition,

Vinton continued

- Mrs. Terry's Kindergarten Class (aka- Terry's Turtles) presented a recycling program done school-wide. Through a company called Terracycle children collect juice pouches, yogurt containers and cookie wrappers. Each month Terry's Turtles counts them, cleans them and packages them to send to the company for a small monetary reward. Six children from Mrs. Terry's class presented to the BOE taking turns reading and reciting about what they do each month. They also sang two recycling songs to popular children's tunes as an introduction to their presentation.
- During the month of February, the Kindergarten children at Vinton organize a school wide project for our Mansfield Animal Shelter: buy a valentine for \$1.00 and help shelter animals. They invite each child and staff member to bring in a photo or draw a picture of their animal friend. Animals have included dogs, cats, horses, birds, fish, or any animals that may be special to them. They have even displayed a picture of Happy the Penguin! The Kindergartners help cut and sort the valentines. There are special "In loving memory" valentines. 100% of the money raised goes to Friends of the Mansfield Animal Shelter (FOMAS.) This is a non profit group that helps the animals stay at the shelter be more comfortable by contributing towards vet bills, spay/neuter, grooming, specialized feeding, improved bedding/cages, and facility improvements. Through Vinton's efforts, improvements such as expanded cat cages and dog runs have been possible. Over the past 12 years, the Kindergartners have helped Vinton raise, \$400.00 to \$600.00 yearly, (approximately \$6,000.) All proceeds going to the Mansfield Animal Shelter. In late Spring, Noranne Nielsen, Mansfield Animal Control Officer, comes to visit and thank the Kindergartners. She, also, does an educational program about pet care, pet responsibility, and keeping safe around animals. Mansfield Shelter animals have true friends at Vinton!

Mansfield Middle School

- On Saturday, February 4, 15 MMS students competed in the Eastern CT Regional Math Counts Competition at the Coast Guard Academy. The MMS main team of Jonathan Huang, Mira Gordin, Joyce Zhou, and John Zhou won first place in the team competition. Both Jonathan and Mira made it to the countdown round and Jonathan came out on top of this individual round. The team, along with Joseph Lee, will be going to the state competition in March.
- As we have usually done before the February break, MMS held several special events during the week of February 13-17. It was Spirit Week with a different theme to dress for each day. To promote community awareness Student Council also sponsored a food drive that collected over 1000 items for the WAIM food pantry. On the morning of Friday, February 17, over fifty students read passages from the works of African-American authors during a read-in in the auditorium. The week ended with a Pep Rally featuring a Student-Staff basketball game that featured at least five half-time shows.
- The MMS Robotics Team hosted the first New England Middle School Robotics tournament on Saturday, February 18. Eleven teams from several schools, including Windham and Ashford, competed for six hours. A feature article about the tournament appeared in the *Chronicle* on February 20.
- State Representative Gregg Haddad made his third visit to MMS during the past year on February 17. He presented official citations from the General Assembly recognizing eight excellent entries he received from 8th graders who submitted essays of 750-1000 words describing their proposal for a new law or changes to a current law. Two eighth graders, Ethan Oliver and Kevin Sheehan, will testify before the House Labor Committee at the end of February as the committee hears testimony on proposed revisions to the state's minimum wage law. The students will present ideas that they developed in their essays.

Upcoming Events in March:

Please join us at any/all of these events

| GW | SE | VN |
|---|---|---|
| PTO Meeting 3/21/12 6:30pm | PTO Meeting 3/5/12 7:00pm | PTA Meeting 3/12/12 7:00pm |
| | Savory Samples Int'l Night 3/22/12 6:00pm | Celebrate Vinton Assembly 3/15/12 |
| | | My Plate Day 3/15/12 |
| | | Vinton School Concert 3/22/12 2:15 & 7:00pm |
| | | Staff Appreciation Week 3/27-3/30/12 |
| | | Invention Convention 3/28/12 2:30pm |
| | | |
| Local History Day 3/1/12 6:0060 | Eastern Reg. Middle School Music Festival 3/2-3/3/12 | Spring Country Dance 3/13/12 7:00pm |
| Francophone Celebration 3/23/12 7:00pm | District History Day 3/24/12 | |
| District | | |
| Board of Education Meeting 3/8/12 Council Chambers 7:30pm | Mark Wood "Electrify Your Strings" Workshops: 3/16/12 – PM, 3/17/12 – 10:00am–3:00pm Performance: 3/17/12 7:00pm | Professional Development Day No School for Students 3/26/12 |

Link to District Four Schools Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13573/14378/default.aspx>

or:

Go to <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/mboe> (Board of Ed. website)

- 1) In the middle at the bottom is a link called "Calendar of Events"
- 2) Click on that link and it will bring you to the calendar.